

Message Text

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63

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SUBJ: SOVIET REFUTATION OF CRITICISM OF YAKIR-KRASIN TRIAL

1. LITERARY GAZETTE SEPTEMBER 12 PUBLISHES ARTICLE BY M. MAKSIMOV WHICH ATTEMPTS REFUTE CHARGES IN WEST THAT YAKIR-KRASIN TRIAL WAS SHAM AND THAT DEFENDENTS CONFESSED UNDER PRESSURE. ARTICLE CONTAINS SELECTIVE QUOTES FROM SEPT 5 PRESS CONFERENCE "PROVING" THAT DEFENDENTS GENUINELY REPENTANT AFTER RECOGNIZING ERROR OF THEIR WAYS. ARTICLE REDICULES YAKIR'S STATEMENT TO LONDON TIMES CORRESPONDENT THAT HE COULD BE PRESSURED INTO CONFESSING AND SOLZHENITSYN'S CLAIM THAT YAKIR IS AN ALCOHOLIC "WHO COULD BE BOUGHT FOR 100 GRAMS." BOTH DEFENDENTS TREATED ALMOST SYMPATHETICALLY, WITH KRASIN SAID TO HAVE ACQUIRED "HATEFUL ATTITUDES" DURING TIME IN PRISON AS YOUNG MAN, AFTER BEING "GROUNDLESSLY CONVICTED" IN 1949.

2. ARTICLE ENDS WITH BLAST AT THOSE WHO RAISE POSSIBILITY THAT TRIAL AND CONDEMNATION OF SAKHAROV AND SOLZHENITSYN MIGHT HARM DETENTE IN EUROPE. AUTHOR CLAIMS THAT OPPOSITE IS TRUE -- SOONER " OBSTACLES TO SOLID PEACE AND HONEST COOPERATION ARE REMOVED," THE BETTER FOR WORLD PEACE. IN CLEAR REFERENCE TO SAKHAROV AND SOLZHENITSYN AND THEIR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN SUPPORTERS, THESE "OBSTACLES" ARE CHARACTERIZED AS "THOSE
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PEOPLE WHO SPEAK OUT AGAINST REDUCTION OF TENSIONS, SUBVERTING TRUST BETWEEN PEOPLES AND SOWING SUSPICION AND PREJUDICE."

3. COMMENT. ARTICLE IS CLEAREST ALLUSION WE HAVE SEEN TO
NEED TO GET YAKIR-KRASIN TRIAL OUT OF WAY BEFORE SECOND STAGE
CSCE. IT IS ALSO ANOTHER SIGN THAT REGIME REALIZES DETAILS
OF ESTERN CRITICISM ARE BECOMING KNOWN HERE AND IS ATTEMPT
TO MEET CRITICISM HEAD ON, WITH HOPE OF DIFFUSING IT. (IN THIS
CONNECTION, AFP CORRESPONDENT RELATED TO US THAT EARLY THIS WEEK
HE CALLED A DISSIDENT TO TELL HIM ABOUT CONGRESSMAN MILLS'
STATEMENT, BUT DISSIDENT REPLIED THAT HE AND HIS FRIENDS
ALREADY KNEW ABOUT IT AND WERE GREATLY ENCOURAGED.) VEILED
THREAT TO "REMOVE OBSTACLES" GIVES WARNING TO SAKHAROV,
SOLZHENITSYN AND OTHER DISSIDENTS THAT, ALTHOUGH FULL-SCALE PRESS
CAMPAIGN AGAINST THEM HAS HALTED FOR THE PRESENT, THEIR
ACTIVITIES ARE STILL BEING CLOSELY WATCHED. MADAME FURTSEVA'S
COMMENT (SEPTTEL) THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO SAKHAROV AND
SOLZHENITSYN, WHILE SELF-SERVING , MAY REPRESENT MORE SOBER
REGIME ASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN ANGLE.
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